

Appl. No. 09/995,205
Amdt. Dated August 5, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 5, 2004

Attorney Docket No. 81716.0081
Customer No.: 26021

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS:

Claims 1-3 are amended. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found on p. 6, line 12-p. 7, line 5 of the Applicant's specification. New claims 18 and 19 are added. Claims 1-19 are pending in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsuyoshi JP 11-308014 in view of Saitoh (U.S. Patent No. 5,864,782). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Office states that, with respect to Saitoh, the motivation for modifying Tsuyoshi (i.e., modifying the sharp corner in the conductor and the dielectric in the propagation area to have a chamfered shape) would have been to suppress the concentration of an electric current and to reduce the transmission loss. The present invention is also directed to reducing transmission loss. However, the chamfer of Saitoh is not featured in the same manner as the present invention.

In the present invention, the dielectric strip has a chamfer, when one surface of the dielectric strip facing towards the parallel planar conductor is bonded to the parallel planar conductor with an adhesive. The adhesive spreads over the chamfer, resulting in an increase in the bonding area. This allows the dielectric strip to be bonded firmly to the parallel planar conductor, thereby excellent durability is obtained. Moreover, the adhesive existing in the chamfer serves to alleviate adverse effects such as thermal expansion or shock. This helps protect the central portion of the dielectric strip, onto which electric fields of high-frequency signals to be transmitted are concentrated, against deformation. Consequently, transmission loss in high-frequency signals can be effectively suppressed.

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Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that the teaching of Saitoh provides no motivation that would allow one of ordinary skill in the art to arrive at the present invention. Furthermore, as to the numerical limitation of the width of the chamfer, there is a critical significance as described in the Applicant's specification. However, Saitoh does not teach or suggest anything related to this.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references could not have rendered obvious claim 1 because the cited references fail to teach or suggest each and every claim limitation. Withdrawal of this rejection is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsuyoshi JP 11-308014 in view of Kishino et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,094,106) in combination with Fujimaru et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,246,898). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Office states, as to Fujimura, the motivation for the modification, i.e., an open pore ratio is changed from 7% or less to 5% or less, would have been to reduce the manufacturing cost.

However, in the present invention, the reason for limiting the open pore ratio of the dielectric strip to 5% or less is as follows. If the open pore ratio exceeds 5%, the pores included in the dielectric strip absorb water, which leads not only to deterioration in the transmission characteristics but also to unevenness of the density distribution within the dielectric strip. This causes unevenness of the dielectric constant in the dielectric strip, resulting in deterioration in the transmission characteristics. Furthermore, as the density is decreased, the strip strength becomes low and it is inevitable that the dielectric strip becomes deformed. This degrades the transmission characteristics.

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The Applicant respectfully submits that Fujimura is not directed to addressing the aforementioned problems. Accordingly, the teaching of Fujimura provides no motivation that would allow one of ordinary skill in the art to arrive at the present invention.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references could not have rendered obvious claims 4 and 5 because the cited references fail to teach or suggest each and every claim limitation. Withdrawal of this rejection is thus respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

The Office objected to claims 2, 3, 6-15 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but states that the claims "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." In response, Applicant rewrote claims 2 and 3 in the manner suggested by the Office. Withdrawal of this objection and allowance of claims 2 and 3 is thus respectfully requested.

The Applicant traverses this objection with respect to claims 6-15. The Applicant previously rewrote claims 6-10 in the manner suggested by the Office in the response filed October 22, 2003. Claims 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 depend from claims 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10, respectively, and are patentable for at least the same reasons as claims 6-10. Withdrawal of this objection and allowance of claims 6-15 is respectfully requested.

Claims 16 and 17 are allowed.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

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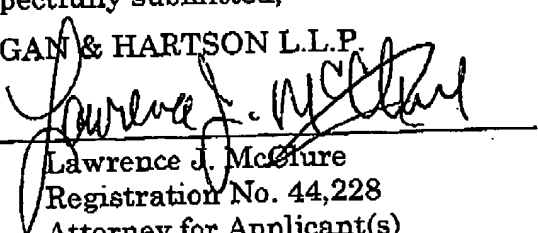
If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6700 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,

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